

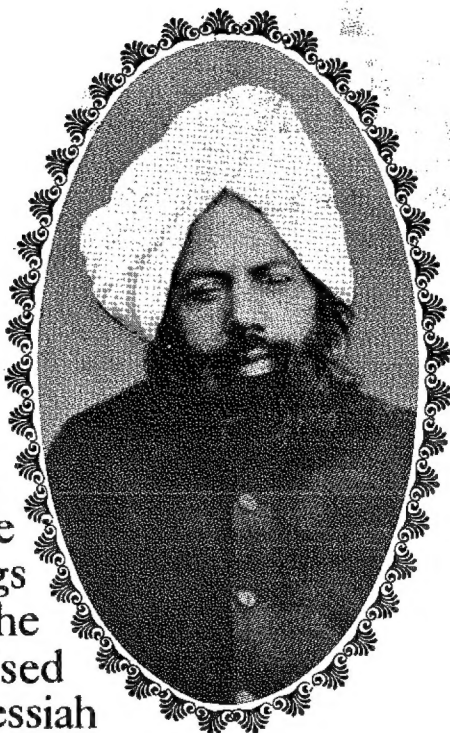
The Muslim Sunrise

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لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

From
the
Writings
of the
Promised
Messiah



Ye people, sound asleep --
Wake up, make haste,
Arise! This is not the time
to be wasted in slumber:
My heart is harrowed
With anxiety, over
The grave tidings,
In Revelation conveyed
To me, by the Lord God!

This earth I perceive
Turned completely upside
Down, in an earthquake!
The hour is nigh:
The deluge is poised
For a swift and sudden leap!

For the righteous, however,
The gracious God, Himself,

Does stand by the wayside,
To help them in the difficult
Moment; and the good
Have nothing to fear, even though
The whirlpool is the most terrible,
In power and proportions!

There is no ark
Can save mankind
From this flood;
No human endeavor
Can come to the rescue;
But one recourse
Is left -- that you show
Real repentance, and cry
For Divine Help!

*Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad,
The Promised Messiah*

The Muslim Sunrise

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

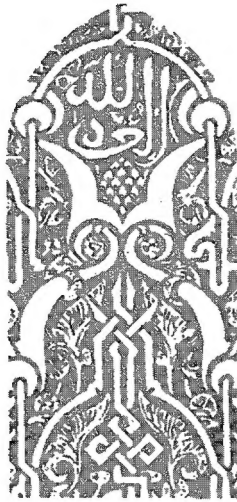
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EDITOR: *Shukar Ilahi Husain*
MANAGING EDITOR: *Bushra Saeeda*
BUSINESS MANAGER: *Rashid Ahmad*
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: *Hasan Hakeem*
CIRCULATION MANAGER: *Ahmad Saeed*

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“ALLAH”

by S.I. Husain

How many people today reject religion altogether because they find the concept of God presented by most religions unacceptable to the reasoning mind! Indeed, one might agree that most religions present strange and distorted notions of a deity that would be hard to take seriously.

Hinduism, today, for example, is making its bid for attention in the western world. Amid tambourines, drums and street dancers, it presents Brahma, the deity out of whose body various castes of mankind were born. Higher castes emerged from the mouth and upper portions, successively lower castes from the navel, loins, etc. until the poor Sudra, the blacks of India who are called untouchables, finally emerged from the feet of their god. They have never risen above this humble origin, and so long as religion holds sway over their minds they possibly never will.

Although the original concepts of Buddhism were based on belief in a deity, today's Buddhists have reached a state of atheism in which they reject the idea of God and center their religion about the idea of Self. Many Christian denominations have followed suit.

Christianity invites the world to believe in One Supreme Being, but in the final analysis that One God the seeker had hoped to find always turns out to be three... Jesus, an unexplainable essence called the “holy ghost” and the third in the order of importance, one whom Jesus

refers to as "Father", but who seems totally helpless to hear or answer the prayers of a son and deliver him safely from his executioners. Seeking an explanation of how one can equal three and three equal one, or how a god can be seized and slaughtered by human beings, we are told simply that these are "mysteries" which man cannot understand in this life but must wait to have explained after he is dead and probably has no further use for the information.

The Jewish concept of God could make much more sense. However, there are questionable points in Jewish monotheism as well. The idea of One God, the Creator of mankind, is fine. But somewhere this idea begins to branch out into a concept of theocratic nationalism. The Bible and history are filled with detail about the long-drawn-out power struggle between the "chosen people" and the rest of the world, with the "Lord God of Israel" girded to the teeth and always on "our" side.

The very concept of the Supreme Being as "God of Israel" or "God of China" or "God of the Zulus" must be taken as an admission that the "other" side also has a god... hence there are two gods... or we will have to admit that the "God of Israel" after creating the rest of the world promptly forgot about it. Guidance was showered on the Jewish people in the form of prophets, one after another, despite their ingratitude, until finally their God simply washed his hands of them, scattered them to the four winds in a mighty huff, and decided to take his bat and glove and go elsewhere. But not before promising that some day he'd get the old team back together again in Palestine, the old home ballpark, for one last double-header.

Can anyone with a reasoning mind accept the idea that, if God does indeed exist, He could treat mankind in such a partial manner? The God of the Universe, who has created air, fire and water to serve a "chosen people" does not discriminate against anyone in the matter of the use of these natural bounties. Why, then, should some classes of people be sent divine guidance in the form of prophets and revelation and be blessed to have verbal communication with God, while others are left completely bankrupt in spiritual matters? It stands to reason that if God does speak to and guide human beings as the Bible claims, then His attention would fall upon the earth as freely and as sweetly as the blessed sunshine. Or we must finally admit that no such revelation has ever come down upon mankind. A third alternative is that revelation did come, and continues today and forever, but stories of the past have become distorted with the telling and the ears of present day man have been stopped with wax.

The first and most fundamental requirement of faith in the religion of

Islam is uncompromising belief in the One and Only Supreme Being. Islam describes God in these words which are repeated by every Muslim in his daily prayers:

"Allah is alone in His Person, Attributes and Glory, and has no partner. All need His support, and every single atom owes its existence to Him. He receives favor from none but bestows it upon all. He neither begets nor is begotten, and there is none other of His kind!"

THE HOLY QURAN 112: 2-5

In Arabic, the religious language of all Muslims, the proper name of God is "Allah". This name is quite similar to the names for God which have been used in the original language of the Old Testament and the language spoken by Jesus. God was called "Elohim" by the Jews, and Jesus, when he prayed while on the cross, cried out to God in his agony, calling Him "Eli".

"Allah", then, is simply a variation of the name of God used by Jesus and the prophets, and the God of Islam is none other than the God worshipped by Abraham, Moses and Jesus. All of these prophets and holy ones of God were believers in pure monotheism, but both their teachings and reputations have suffered at the hands of their followers who came later. Islam teaches, and the Bible also confirms that Jesus never claimed to be god. He was a pious and God-fearing man who admonished a man once simply for addressing him, "good master". "Why callest thou me good?" asked Jesus. "There is none good but one, that is, God." (KJV Matt. 19:16)

The convert who desires to accept Islam is asked to repeat the simple declaration of belief in one God, and this is the point at which he is accepted into the great world brotherhood of Muslims and begins to tread the path of Islam... the path of peace... For "Islam" the name of this largest of the world's religions, is simply the word "peace" in the Arabic language. A Muslim, therefore, is simply one who makes his peace with God, and by accepting the commandments of God as revealed through the prophets and as finalized by the Prophet Muhammad (on whom be peace and the blessings of God) learns to live in peace with mankind. Only through self-discipline and respect for the rights of others can man attain real peace of mind and peace on earth, and Islam teaches its followers the path of true peace.

The Kalima, the statement of faith which makes a man a Muslim and starts him on his path of spiritual progress, is recited in Arabic by the new convert, and is said this way: "La Ilaha Ilallah Muhammadur-Rasulullah". "I bear witness that there is none worthy to be worshipped but Allah, the One True God, and that Muhammad is the prophet and messenger of Allah." The Kalima is the first of the five

“pillars” or fundamentals upon which the religion of Islam is built.

The Quran, the Muslim scripture, contains a number of beautiful passages on the nature of God, proofs of His existence and arguments supporting His Unity. Islam presents this glorious scripture to the world as its greatest miracle. For fourteen centuries it has stood unchanged by human hands and unchallenged in its own claim that it is “a perfect book... a guidance for the righteous”.

On the nature of God, some selections follow, rendered in English.

All praise belongs to Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of all the universes;

The Gracious, the Merciful, the sole Master of the Day of Judgement
1:2-4

He has created everything in a form suitable to its nature, and then guided it toward its perfection.

20:51

The whole system of cause and effect ends with the Lord

53:43

Allah — there is no God but He — the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining.

Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth...

His Knowledge extends over the heavens and the earth, yet the care of them burdens Him not.

He is the High, the Great!

2:256

Ever-Living, the Source of all life and Supporter of all

3:3

He hears and answers the prayers of His supplicants.

2:187

His power extends over everything.

2:149

He is the Originator of the heavens and the earth. When he decrees a thing, He does only say to it, “Be,” and it is.

2:118

To Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth.

Whether you disclose what is in your minds or keep it hidden, He will call you to account for it, forgiving whomsoever He pleases and punishing whomsoever He pleases.

For Allah has the power to do all that He wills.

2:285

To Allah belong the East and the West, so whither so ever you turn, there will be the face of Allah. Surely He is Bountiful, All-Knowing.

2:116

The Originator of the heavens and the earth! How can He have a son when He has no consort, and when He has created everything and has knowledge of all things?

Such is Allah, your Lord. There is no God but He, the Creator of all things. So worship Him, for He is Guardian over everything.

Eyes cannot reach him, but He reaches the eyes. And He is the Incomprehensible, the All-Aware.

6:102-104

Indeed, they are disbelievers who say, "Surely Allah is none but the Messiah, son of Mary," whereas the Messiah himself said, "O children of Israel, worship Allah Who is my Lord and your Lord."

...And they are surely disbelievers who say, "Allah is the third of three." There is no god but the One God, and if they do not desist from what they say, a grievous punishment shall surely befall those of them that disbelieve. Will they not then turn to Allah and beg His forgiveness, while Allah is Most Forgiving and Merciful?

The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger. Surely, Messengers like unto him had passed away before him. And his mother was a truthful woman. They both used to eat food.

See how Allah explains the signs for their own good, and see how they are turned away?

5:73-76

And surely among them (that is, among those people who hold these wrong beliefs) is a section who twist their tongues while reciting Scriptures, so that you may think it to be part of the Book while it is not part of the Book. And they say, "It is from God," while it is not from God, and they utter a lie against God, deliberately.

3:79

Proofs have indeed come to you from your Lord. So whoever sees, it is for his own good, and whoever becomes blind, it is to his own harm.

6:105

Those who say, "Our Lord is Allah, the true God," and renounce the false deities and then show preserverance, angels descend upon them and say, "Fear ye not, neither be ye grieved but rejoice and be happy that you have become heirs to the bliss which had been promised to you. We are your guardians in this life and the next."

41:31-32



JEHOVAH

True God or an Abomination?

by Bushra Saeeda

Christians these days usually speak simply of "God". In their prayers they address the Supreme Being, "Our Father," said to be the manner of address used by Jesus. However, another group has emerged on the religious scene in recent years which, while claiming to be really and truly Christian, deviates in many of the basic Christian doctrines and does not hesitate to brand every other church and every religion "anti-Christ".

Followers of this group force themselves on their brother Christians with Bible in hand, but not, of course, the standard Bibles which have been handed down through the church for centuries. They have felt it necessary to write their own, a "translation" incorporating their own special doctrines and terminology which is used to confront the bewildered Christian and knock him off his feet. These are the door-to-door preachers who today call themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses."

The standard Christian doctrine of "father, son and holy ghost" is

rejected by Jehovah's Witnesses as a pagan invention. They protest in chorus against the Christian's identification of Jesus as a third of the trinity. In place of the familiar "father, son and holy ghost", they introduce another god called "Jehovah God".

Jesus still has a place on their honor roll, however. He is not a part of the trinity but he is the son of Jehovah-God, and he did not die on the cross... definitely not! He died on the "torture-stake" to save you from your sins, brother, and you'd better believe it! "Cross" is a dirty pagan word but if you call it a tree or a stake, your uninvited guests might even accept your offer of a cup of coffee and talk a little further.

The name "Jehovah" is not unfamiliar to Christians. It occurs frequently in the Old Testament, but its origin is uncertain. The name, "Jehovah", is supposedly a development of a Hebrew name, formed from the four Hebrew letters equivalent to YHWH. A vast philosophy has grown up around "Yahweh" as the name of God, but until the movement known as "Jehovah's Witnesses" began pressing its point that God by any other name wasn't God at all, and began changing the English Scriptures to include "Jehovah" in every possible place, not much of an issue was made of the Divine Name by Christians.

Just where did the name "Jehovah" originate? What are its implications? Does it tell us anything at all about the God who supposedly bears this name? Or does it tell us more about His worshippers than it does about the deity himself? Just who, exactly, is "Jehovah"? Can he be in any way identified with the God worshipped by Jesus, or with Allah, the Lord of the Universe?

A thing or being can best be understood by a study of its attributes or qualities. What were the special qualities of Jehovah, which entitled him to be recognized as the One Supreme Being, and worshipped by men?

First of all, "Jehovah", the name used today, cannot possibly be Hebrew. The letters "J" and "V" do not occur in that language. The argument that Jehovah is the true and original name of God, then, cannot be valid if the Hebrew origin of the scriptures is kept in view.

Those who are familiar with the unique consonantal character of the Hebrew alphabet... similar to Arabic (except that its letters are written in a different style, and the order of letters is in the Greek "A,B,G,D" manner rather than the Arabic "A,B,T,S" arrangement)... can easily understand the problem. "Jehovah" spelled in Hebrew letters in the ancient manner, without vowel points, substituting "Yodh" for "J" and "Waw" for "V" is unpronounceable.

It is said that in ancient times the people of Judah invented this name for their Deity, believing that His true name was too holy to be profaned by the lips of mortals. The Jews have carried the notion to such an ex-

tent that they often substitute the term "the name" for a proper name of God in reading their scriptures. Before destroying old and worn out books, ritual procedure requires the careful cutting out of each scrap of text wherein the Divine Name is contained.

How, then, did the transition come about? How did the unpronounceable "Tetragrammaton", the four letter name of the Divine Being, evolve into "Jehovah"? Jews, even today, do not pronounce the name of God. How, then, did the Christians develop the name "Jehovah" which the Jews still reject?

The obvious first step, the scholars tell us, was the addition of vowel points to the initial four Hebrew consonants, forming the name "Yahweh", which is still used in this form in many modern translations of the Christian Bible. If Christians feel that the name of the Jewish God now should be profaned by human lips, this is all well and good. But do they find it difficult to pronounce it correctly? "Yah-way" seems simple enough. So why the deep mystery? Why, of all things, "Jehovah"? Certainly not nearly as euphonious on the tongue as the original Hebrew. And surely lacking the charm of the Jewish concept of holiness beyond human speech.

We cannot deny then, at the very outset, that the name "Jehovah" is not the true revealed name of God at all, but simply a word... a noise produced by rolling the human tongue... invented by men in need of a word to express their concept of a Supreme Being.

Bible scholars in recent years have reached some conclusions about the original matter which makes up the Bible of today. Finding irreconcilable contradictions and absurdities in the early chapters of Genesis, and a wide variation between the concepts of God which are offered in these chapters... and the presence of not one but *three* versions of the name of God, it became necessary to offer some sort of an explanation.

It is now said that the Old Testament is composed essentially of four major narratives which have been combined to give a single account of the creation and the early history of the people of Judah and Israel. These narratives each introduce God in a different manner, and by a different name.

The first group of documents supposedly originated in the southern kingdom of Judah among the people who came to be known as "Jews". These are the "Yahweh" or "Jehovah" documents, called "J" documents by the scholars. The "J" documents are believed to have been produced around the ninth century B.C.

During the eighth century, about one hundred years later, another set of writings were produced in the northern kingdom of Israel. In these Israelite writings, God is referred to as "Elohim". These are called

the "E" documents.

Still later, probably around the fifth century, Jewish priests combined materials from the "J" and "E" documents, a little handiwork of their own which the scholars have dubbed "pious fraud", and produced a set of books called the "JE" documents. In these writings the Israelite and Judaic names were combined to form the name "Jehovah Elohim", which in today's Bible is translated into English as "the Lord God". ("Jews, God and History", by Max Dimont, 1962, Signet edition). This period corresponded roughly with the spread of Greek civilization and culture, and any scholar of Jewish history will affirm the fact that Jewish religion was in no way immune to the inroads of Greek paganism during this period. It was a period of clashing civilizations, the Jews themselves finally becoming victims of an invasion from Babylon which resulted in their captivity. The possibility of "pious forgeries" is not so remarkable. The real miracle is that the scriptures survived at all.

"Allah", the God of Israel

The derivation of the name "Elohim" is a matter of speculation by modern scholars, but it may possibly, according to some authorities, have been derived from the word "El" or from Ugaritic or Akkadian "ilu" or "Elu". These were languages of the Semitic group that seem to have preceded the Hebrew. This suggestion is harmless enough, but hardly satisfactory. On the authority of the Holy Quran, we can safely state that the God of Abraham was called "Allah". It does not seem likely that his grandson, Jacob, would have deviated so far from the faith of Abraham as to have changed the name of God. Considering that Jacob (also called Israel) was himself a prophet, indeed this suggestion seems absurd.

Spoken languages have always preceded the written, and it is not unlikely that the new dialect of the region where Jacob and his children settled had left some effect on their speech. Perhaps "Allah" began to sound like "Elloh" as it does today on the tongues of some of the Muslim converts of African extraction. Such variations in pronunciation are not unusual.

However, by the time the "Elohim" documents were committed to writing and reached the hands of the Bible makers, "Elloh" had become "Elloh-im"... the plural form. The idea of the oneness of God just didn't seem to sink into their heads. This seems to have been the point where perversion of the true religion of Abraham began. Since

continued on page 16

وَالِى ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَقَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ بَيِّنَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ هَذِهِ نَاقَةُ اللَّهِ لَكُمْ آيَةٌ فَذُرُّوهَا تَأْكُلْ فِي أَرْضِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تَسْخَوْهَا بِسَوْءِ فِعَالِكُمْ عَذَابُ الْيَوْمِ ①
وَاذْكُرُوا إِذْ جَعَلَكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ مِنْ بَعْدِ عَادٍ وَبَوَّأَكُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ تَتَّخِذُونَ مِنْ سُوءِهَا بُسُورًا وَتَتَّخِذُونَ
الْجِبَالَ بُيُوتًا ② فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تَعْشَوْا فِي الْأَرْضِ مُفْسِدِينَ ③
قَالَ الْمَلَأُ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا مِنْ قَوْمِهِ لِلَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا لِمَنْ أَمَنَّ مِنْهُمْ اقْعَلُونَنَا أَوْ صَلِّحُوا
بِقَوْمِ رَبِّهِمْ قَالُوا إِنَّا بِمَا أُرْسِلَ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ ④ قَالَ الَّذِينَ اسْتَكْبَرُوا إِنَّا بِالَّذِي آمَنْتُمْ بِهِ كَافِرُونَ ⑤
فَعَقَرُوا النَّاقَةَ وَعَتَوْا عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِمْ وَقَالُوا يُصْلِحُ رَبُّنَا مَا نَكُونُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ ⑥
فَأَخَذَتْهُمُ الرَّجْفَةُ فَأَصْبَحُوا فِي دَارِهِمْ جُثَيَيْنَ ⑦ فَوَلَّى عَنْهُمْ وَقَالَ يَاقَوْمِ لَقَدْ أَبْلَغْتُكُمْ رَسُولًا
رَبِّي وَصَحَّتْ لَكُمْ وَلَكِنْ لَا تُحْتَبُونَ التَّصْحِينَ ⑧

The Holy Quran, 7:74-80

And to Thamud We sent their brother Salih. He said, 'O my people, worship Allah; you have no other deity but Him. Verily there has come to you a clear evidence from your Lord—this she-camel of Allah, a Sign for you. So leave her that she may feed in Allah's earth, and do her no harm, lest a painful punishment seize you.'

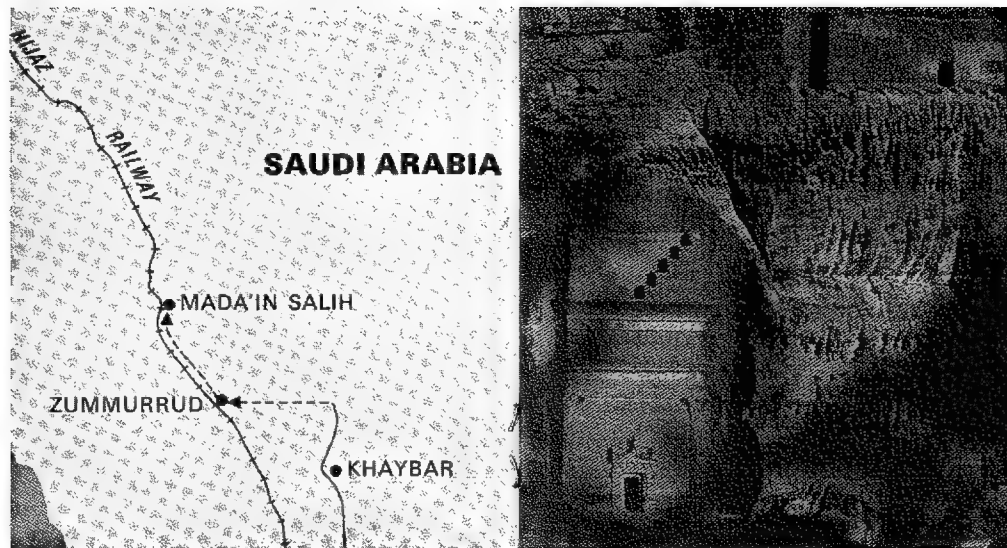
'And remember the time when He made you inheritors of His favors after Ad, and assigned you an abode in the land; you build palaces in its plains and you hew the mountains into houses. Remember, therefore, the favors of Allah and commit not iniquity in the earth, causing disorder.'

The chief men of his people who were arrogant said to those who were reckoned weak—those among them who believed—'Do you know for certain that Salih is one sent by his Lord?' They answered, 'Surely, we believe in that with which he has been sent.'

Those who were arrogant said, 'Verily, we do disbelieve in that in which you believe.'

Then they hamstrung the she-camel and rebelled against the command of their Lord, and said, 'O Salih, bring us that which thou threatenest us with, if thou art indeed one of the Messengers.'

**So the earthquake seized them
and in their homes they lay prostrate
upon the ground**



THE NABATEANS

Thomas C. Barger, president of Aramco, has enriched an amateur's knowledge of archeology with substantial reading and 30 years of exploration in Saudi Arabia. He added to it this year with a trip to Mada'in Salih and subsequent research into the history of the region.

In 312 B.C., about 10 years after the death of Alexander the Great, a Greek general who had served with Alexander led an expedition against a city called Petra in what is now Jordan. He captured the main fortress, looted it and retired with the city's treasure. As he retreated, however, the defenders of the city counterattacked, in an unexpected night raid, massacred the Greeks and recaptured the treasure. The defenders were called Nabateans and this was their first appearance in recorded history.

Who were the Nabateans? To give an exact answer is difficult; reliable information about them is sketchy. After their initial appearance, for example, they dropped out of historical sight until about 169 B.C., nearly a century and a half later. And even then there is only an unexplained reference to their capture of a certain high priest. Again there is a period of silence until about 100 B.C. when they began to appear with more frequency—in their own inscriptions as well as in Roman, Greek and Jewish sources. Their period of prominence was so short, however, that much of what is believed today has been pieced together as much from conjecture as from evidence.

What became of the people of Thamud? We are indebted to "Aramco World" for this enlightening view of the remains of that ancient town and the people who used to "hew the mountains into houses."

The signs and proofs of the True and Living God are everywhere. But noplacement can any more remarkable example be found than in the sun-drenched ruins of Mada'in Salih near the old Hijaz Railway line about 500 miles north of Jiddah. The Holy Quran tells us that Salih's people, the Thamud, succeeded the people of Ad not only in the inheritance of the land, but also in iniquity. By the archaeologists and historians, however, the people whose bones strew the mountain houses of Mada'in Salih are called the Nabateans.

Apparently the Nabateans were of Arab origin, probably Bedouins out of the Arabian desert, who settled, at least for a time, in a wild, mountainous land south of the Dead Sea and clustered around what is famous today as the "rose-red city" of Petra, a city carved from sandstone and guarded on its eastern approach by a narrow, easily defended defile and a fortress on an immense rock that could be reached only by a single, hand-cut ascent. All around the city were rose-red sandstone formations and the Nabateans expended a great deal of time and

effort carving tombs into the cliffs. These tombs had facades representing elaborate temples—Greek-inspired, probably—with small, plain, unadorned chambers cut in behind the "doors" to serve as crypts.

With the well-guarded Petra as a base of power the Nabateans were able to control the important roads to the coast south of the Dead Sea and all of the desert country lying to the east of the towns in what is today Jordan and western Syria. In other words they controlled all the lands east of the settled country ruled by the Jews and Romans and

other sedentary peoples. (Including, probably, Damascus, so that it is likely that at the time St. Paul was making his escape by being let down the city wall in a basket, the governor of the city was a Nabatean.) They also maintained access to the Mediterranean through an area due west of Petra that is today known as the Gaza Strip, and extended their control south into what is today Mada'in Salih in Saudi Arabia.

To the Nabateans, control of this territory was probably no less than a matter of survival. Through it ran the ancient caravan routes over which came the main source of the Nabateans' wealth and importance: incense. In that era the Roman Empire and the Greek states used incredible quantities of incense for their civil and religious ceremonies, and nearly all of the incense seems to have come from South Arabia—from what is today southern Yemen and Hadhramaut. Incense comes from the sap of a certain tree found then and to this day in the highlands of those regions.

Because their prosperity depended almost exclusively on incense, however, the Nabateans were bound to suffer if their Roman customers could find a cheaper way of getting it. And the Romans did find a cheaper way. They shipped it on their galleys up the Red Sea to ports closer to Egypt and the Mediterranean. Since the caravans plodding overland could not compete with the swift galleys it was virtually the end of Nabatean

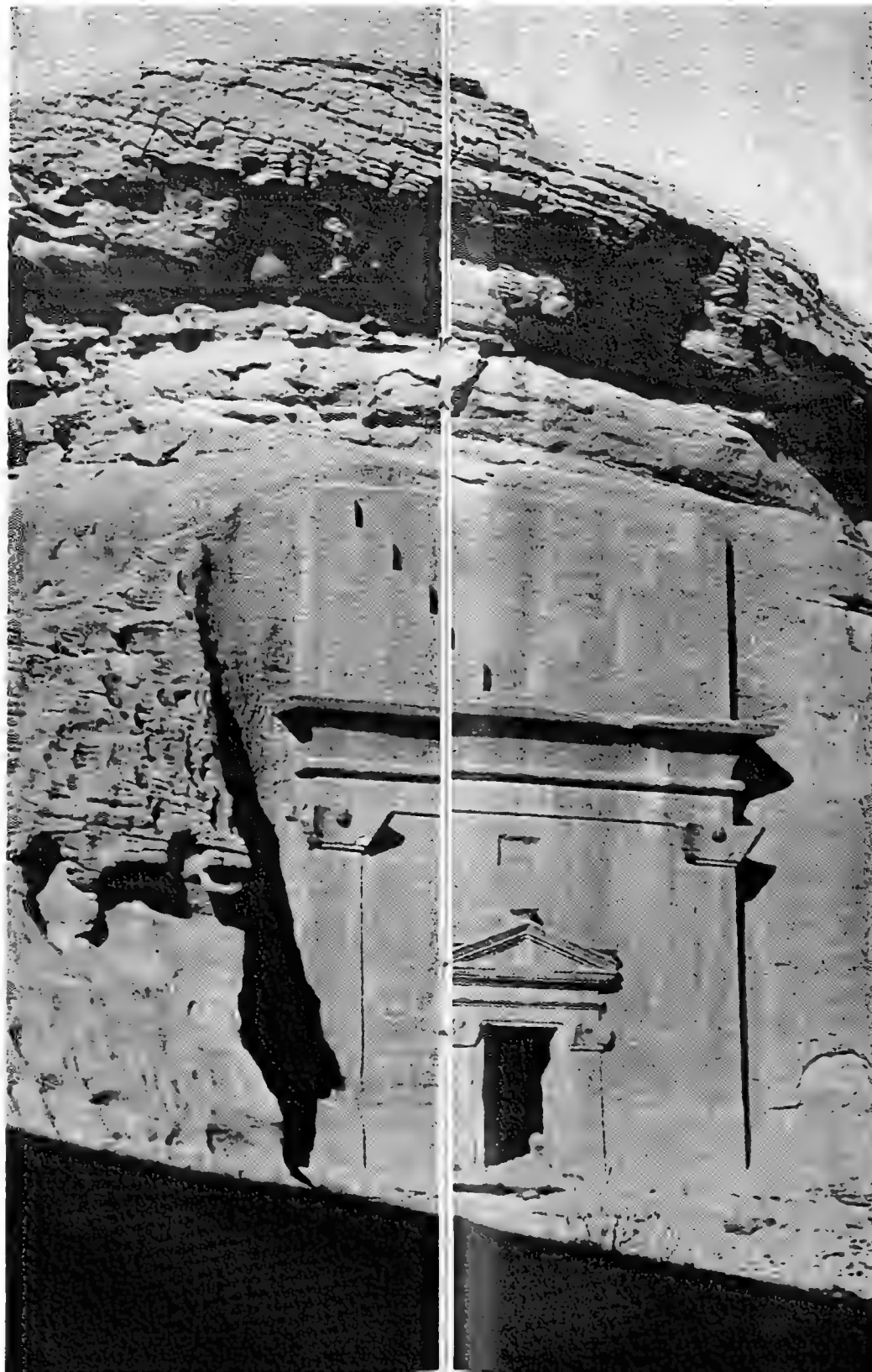
wealth and influence. Toward the end of the first century A.D. they began to decline and a century later had disappeared altogether as a separate state and people and their magnificent capital in Petra was left, deserted and empty, to the wind and sun and an occasional Bedouin, for 1,600 years.

Up to this point most of the information is reasonably well documented. But there are other aspects of Nabatean history and culture which are still open to speculation and dispute. One of the most important questions has to do with Mada'in Salih.

There is no doubt that Mada'in Salih was a Nabatean settlement—Charles Doughty's sketches of the stone inscriptions proved that beyond any doubt—but there is disagreement as to whether it was merely an outpost of the Nabateans from which the Nabateans picked up the incense and transhipped it to Petra, or a large thriving settlement strong and self-sufficient enough to dictate terms to the tribes to the south.

The first view stems from the basic belief that the Nabateans were not only of nomadic origin, but were still nomads in the era of Nabatean eminence. It is based on what so far is a failure to find ruins which might indicate a settlement. This theory is helped along by the writings of a Roman called Diodorus, whose sources are unknown but who wrote that the Nabateans were completely nomadic and that they abstained from planting and sowing under threat of death as well as from drinking wine and building permanent homes.

In the absence of data to refute it, this view, of course, must be considered. But other findings suggest quite another story. First of all there have been no excavations in Mada'in Salih and it is entirely possible that there are ruins there—beneath certain dunes and mounds that are certainly not natural. More importantly, ruins in and around Jordan show that the Nabateans were most ingenious in conserving and using water for agriculture and probably had more land in crops than there is now. In Mada'in Salih itself the Bedouins today are cleaning out wells which in size and number suggest that at one time there might have been several square miles of gardens in the vicinity—enough to have supported a sizeable population. Furthermore the Nabateans produced a distinctive pottery of excellent quality and workmanship—all of which means that if the Nabateans were nomads they were most unusual nomads



since nomadic people rarely develop water conservation systems or fine pottery.

The other view—that Mada'in Salih was a large, strong settlement—seems more reasonable if only because it is unlikely that the South Arabian tribes would have simply halted their northern advance at a given point because the Nabateans asked them to. It is much more likely that they stopped because the settlement at Mada'in Salih was big enough and strong enough to bar them from going further.

Supporting this view is the interesting fact that the tombs to be found on the sandstone cliffs above the oasis of Al 'Ula—just a few miles south of Mada'in Salih—are not Nabatean tombs. They are similar, but key differences in the pattern and inscriptions found there indicate that the people who carved those tombs were probably South Arabians, not Nabateans. Thus it seems that between Mada'in Salih and Al 'Ula there existed a definite frontier marking the southernmost extension of the Nabatean Kingdom and the northernmost penetration of the South Arabian traders.

If that were the case, however, it would leave the major question about Mada'in Salih unanswered: what happened to it?

It is logical that with the decline of the incense trade—after the Romans conquered the Nabateans—Petra would have declined. It also seems reasonable that if Mada'in Salih were a small outpost of nomads it, too, would have vanished with the end of the incense trade. But if there were a large agricultural settlement there, why would it disappear? The fortunes of Al 'Ula were also dependent on incense, but because of its agriculture it survives to this day, so what happened?

No one can answer that question with any dependable degree of certainty, but there might be a clue in the Koranic story of the prophet Salih in which an "earthquake" shook the valley to punish the villagers for rejecting God's prophet. Geologists see no evidence of an earthquake in Mada'in Salih. But the Koranic word translated "earthquake" can also mean "a calamity from God." Couldn't it have been, for example, a plague that drove the Nabateans away forever?

The only honest answer of course is: no one knows. Which is why Mada'in Salih is perhaps the most fascinating part of the story of the Nabateans.

continued in next issue

JEHOVAH

continued from page 10

the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be on him, the holy founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, has so capably dealt with the question of which language came first... and clearly established the fact that all other languages are corruptions of Arabic... we must assume that even if "Elohim" was once "Ilu" or "Elu", prior to that time it still would have been "Allah". Readers who wish to study this question further are referred to the Promised Messiah's book, "Minan al-Rahman" or "Favors of the Benificent", now available in English translation. Several other scholars have published books containing further research on this important question. "English Traced to Arabic" by M.A. Mazhar, is available and is an excellent contribution to further understanding of the subject. (These books are distributed by the many branches of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam.)

Suppose, on the other hand, the Arabic name "Allah" might be admitted to be a singular form of the Hebrew "Elohim". Would this be found objectionable? Of course it would!

How could the one *plural* name of "gods"... the Biblical deity... have been "corrupted" into the *singular* and indivisible "Allah"... the Lord of the Universe, without offending? The offense was so great that in today's Christian Bible, we no longer find "Elohim". In his place has been substituted "the Lord" or "the Lord God of Israel", no doubt to differentiate between the "Elohim" of the children of Abraham and the nameless deity of the people of Judah, about whom more needs to be written.

First, however, we must deal with the composite god-person of the "J.E." documents, for the major point of Christian doctrine... the question of original sin... is dealt with in this set of priestly forgeries.

The Lord God Person

The Biblical personage known as the "Lord God" (the invention of the aforementioned "pious forgers") abruptly makes his entrance in the second chapter of Genesis. Here begins the fanciful tale of the creation of man, and the removal of his rib by surgery under anesthesia which subsequently provided him with a female companion.

Incidental to the subject, but interesting, is the exclamation made by Adam when the "Lord God" presented him with this delightful creature, made from his own extracted rib. Adam decided, on the spot, "She shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man. Therefore

shall a man leave his *father* and his *mother* and cleave unto his *wife*; and they shall be one flesh." (Gen. 2:23-24) It seems clear that Adam knew something about parents. He decided then and there that this new creature was going to serve him as a wife, and having a wife, what need would he now have for a father and mother? His reaction upon seeing a pretty face seemed to be rather like that of today's American teenager who, when he becomes 18 years of age, decides to take advantage of his legal freedom and strike out on his own. The old man? Who needs a *father*, after all!

There is need to probe further into the "Lord God" set of literature. The Genesis account of Adam, Eve, the snake, forbidden fruit and the fall of man appears to have been a part of this series of priestly productions. As the story developed, the temptation to elaborate became stronger. The character of the "Lord God" reached a rather advanced state of development by the time the fourth chapter of Genesis was committed to writing. Here we find the fully developed "Lord God" strolling about in the garden.

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

"And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

"And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Adam obviously was naked and ashamed. But what about the Lord God? There are only two lines of thought open to us. Either he was strolling in his garden attired in proper evening clothes, appropriate for hours called the "cool of the day"... possibly including top hat, tails and a walking stick... or was positively stark naked! The pious authors of this account have left the choice to their readers. We would venture to guess, however, that since Adam had been created naked "in the image of God" the embarrassment was mutual. Certainly what followed seems to have been an over-reaction on the part of the Lord God, unwarranted by the mere fact that his oversight had caused a few awkward moments. He quickly corrected the problem for Adam by providing him with pants. Then Adam and his wife were hastily expelled from that garden to assure privacy in the future.

This incident can be directly blamed for the pitiful condition of the black people in America today. Following the example of the ill-tempered Lord God, some time later, we are told that the prophet Noah, who had been drinking heavily, was stumbled upon by his son, Ham, who found him naked. When Noah had slept off his cups, he learned that Ham had

seen him and he reacted. Like the Lord God, Noah cursed everybody but the guilty party. "Cursed be Canaan", he said. (Not Ham, but Canaan, the son of Ham, who was entirely innocent and was not involved at all!) Canaan was condemned to be the servant of servants, and his descendants after him to serve the descendants of Noah's other two sons, Shem and Japheth. We are told that the Canaanites or Hamites are the black people, and this is the reason for their pathetic state. (See Gen. 9:18-27) Christians cannot deny that, in addition to the "original" sin put upon the world by the Lord God, because of Adam, the black people have an extra burden of guilt. They are burdened with the sin of Adam, and also with the curse of Canaan.

We need not discuss the attitude of orthodox Christianity toward the children of Canaan. This is too well known. However, since the Jehovah's Witnesses today teach that the church is anti-Christ, it would be interesting to see how they have attempted to deal with problems such as this. Have their new concepts of Christianity contributed anything toward improving the lot of the black people who suffer today under the Christian yoke? Without question, they do eagerly seek converts in Black America. And with regard to the matter of Canaan, it would seem that the black man has a right to know where they stand.

One of the books of Jehovah's Witnesses is titled "Things in Which it is Impossible for God to Lie" (1965, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society). The title itself merits comment. If there are things about which God cannot lie, then it follows that there are other things, too. About which things is it possible for God to lie? This question requires much discussion. The Bible attributes several lies to God, but we will not pursue that matter here.

The chief item of interest at this point is the question of Canaan. How do the Jehovah's Witnesses regard the black people in the divine scheme of things? This book answers that question beautifully. On page 58, we are told:

"God had sentenced the Canaanites, the descendants of Canaan the cursed son of Ham, to extermination. So, to make good his covenant with Abraham to give this land to Abraham's seed or offspring, 'Jehovah himself was fighting for Israel,' making even the sun and the moon to stand still during one battle." This is the story of Joshua, who found that he couldn't kill enough black Canaanites in one day of fighting, so "Jehovah" caused the sun to stand still and lengthened the day to give him the advantage!

Black people who are approached by Jehovah's Witnesses would do well to probe this question further. The Bible mentions that Noah cursed all the descendants of Canaan. But according to the Watchtower Society,

Jehovah had decided to exterminate them! Jehovah's Witnesses promise a new kingdom on the earth after Christ comes. What will be the position of their Canaanite converts in that kingdom? But we are getting away from our subject.

The entire account of Adam, the forbidden fruit, the original sin which, according to Christianity can only be erased by the death of Jesus, comes from this set of "J.E." or "Jehovah-Elohim" documents. If the "God" of these writings has been manufactured by pluralizing the God of Abraham and adding four unpronounceable letters to produce a "divine name", then how much validity can be expected from the rest of the story?

Jehovah Adonai

But what about this new name, "Jehovah"? If it is not Hebrew, then what can it be? McGraw-Hill's "Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Bible" (1963) gives the following definition of Jehovah:

Jehovah, a hybrid form for the devine name which originated in the mistaken idea that the consonants of the Tetragrammaton, YHWH (really pronounced "Yahweh"), were to be read with the vowel points found with them in the MT (Massoretic Text: Ed.), which really gives the vowels which are to be read with the substituted word, 'dny (Adonai, "Lord"). ...thus, by combining these vowels with the consonants of the Tetragrammaton, *the mongrel form*, "Yehowah," came into being, which with the English consonant *j* in place of *y* and with the German pronunciation of *w* as *v*, produced in turn the quaint form of "Jehovah".

Here, we find another point of confusion. What could possibly have been the relationship between these two words, made up of totally different sounds, which would make it possible to make such an idiotic mistake?

From whence came this new word, "Adonai", abruptly substituted for the time-honored name of God in the scriptures? Who or what was Adonai? Clearly, the intention was that the entire word should be changed from "Yahweh" to "Adonai" (meaning "Lord", we are told) but only its vowels were incorporated into the original unpronounceable name. For the background of this name "Lord" or "Adonai" we have only to refer to a writing by Manly Palmer Hall, "The Secret Teachings of All Ages", published 1969 by the Philosophical Research Society, Inc. Los Angeles, California.

Writing on the Mysteries of Adonis, or "Adoni", the author tells us that these mystery rites were "celebrated in many parts of Egypt, Phoenicia, and Biblos. The name *Adonis* or *Adoni* means "Lord"

and was a designation applied to the sun and later borrowed by the Jews as the exoteric name of their God.... Adonis was born at midnight of the 24th of December, and through his unhappy death a Mystery rite was established that wrought the salvation of his people." (P. 35)

It seems that another of the names of the Biblical deity has become clear in its meaning. Where today's Bible mentions "Lord", we can safely assume that the name in the original is Adonai... or Adonis. And the birthday of the pagan god Adonis eventually became the birthday of Jesus. How this came about is an entirely separate subject.

But again we have gotten away from the point of issue. What of Jehovah? His vowels, at least, we are told, are a part of Adonis. And his consonants are a "mongrel" form of Hebrew. But are they, really?

The Anatomy of Jehovah

The same author, on page 124, furnishes a most enlightening piece of information on the secret meanings of the name "Jehovah". Toward the close of the Dark Ages in Europe, there suddenly burst forth a great surge of excitement to explore the secrets of the universe, especially with respect to languages and their symbolism and hidden meanings.

Christians were absorbed in constructing secret symbols, magic circles and squares, criss-cross puzzles containing the various sacred words in Christian liturgy, and artistic productions of various sorts supposedly pregnant with meanings withheld from the uninitiated.

The Jews, also, developed a system of hidden meanings, ciphers, numerology related to the alphabet (inherent in the Hebrew language system as it is in Arabic, and used in ancient times, but not developed to a science). The Qabbalists, as these mystical Jews were called, did not spare the name of their deity, Yahweh, from the probe. Writing on the Qabbalistic mysteries, this author sheds further light on the nature of the Jehovah-God in which we are asked to believe today. The interpretation of his name:

"The first letter is Yod, the Germ, the Life, the Flame, the Cause, the One, and the most fundamental of the Jewish *phallic* (sexual: ed.) emblems. Its numerical value is 10, and it is to be considered as the 1 containing the 10. In the Qabbalah it is declared that the Yod is in reality three Yods... Its throne is the Sephira Chochmah (according to Ibn Gebirol, Kether), from which it goes forth to impregnate Binah, which is the first *He* (He is the second letter in the name YHWH:ed.)

We will spare the reader the rest of this narrative. In the manner of the "head bone connecting to the neck bone" the neck bone connecting, etc. the four letters of the Tetragrammaton hook themselves up... sexually!

The "Y" is the head, the head "impregnates" the "H" which becomes the shoulders and arms, resulting in the begetting of the "W". The "W" forms the body, the final "H" the legs.

The name of God, thus arranged, forms the figure of a man. Our writer continues, "It is also extremely significant that by inserting the letter *Shin* in the middle of the name Jehovah, the word Jehoshua, or Jesus, is formed thus:



The more observant reader will notice that "Jehovah", as we speculated, seems to have lost his pants.

Here, we will not dwell on the question of whether "Jehoshua" or "Joshua" is synonymous with Jesus. According to the Quran, the proper name of the son of Mary was "Issa" or "Esau", the Hebrew spelling used in the Bible. The origin and associations of the name "Jesus" are complex but interesting, and would require a separate discussion.

We are primarily interested at this point in the anatomy of Jehovah, since he now has taken the form of a human figure, and considerable information has come to light about his strange anatomical arrangement.

It is rather unusual to find such an instance of a man's having his phallic emphasis in his head. This matter bears investigation, as does the still mysterious substitution of the letters "J" and "V" for the correct Hebrew letters of the Tetragrammaton.

The original "Yod" of the divine name YHWH, because of its unique symbolic associations, would seem necessary to the proper understanding of the name, if this is indeed what was intended by this remarkable mystery diagram. How could the "Y" have become a "J" without utterly destroying the intended meaning? Or has the meaning been clarified and the identity of Jehovah actually become clearer by substituting these letters?

At this point, following the example of the Qabbalists, we succumb to

the temptation to play crosswords. Experimenting with the letters which form the name "Jehovah", and adding the suggested "Shin" to produce "Jehoshua", we begin to notice some rather subtle threads of connection.

Today there are few people who are not familiar with the figure of the Macrocosm, the cut-up man forming the central figure in astrological diagrams. At the head of the figure is the symbol of Aries, the ram.

The symbolism begins to develop. We are indebted again to the work of Manly P. Hall for the following several items of interest, from the same book:

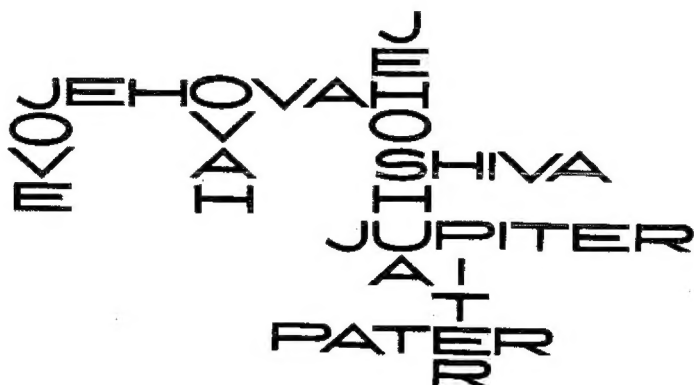
1. A drawing of the pagan god Jupiter, with the horns of a ram, signifying possession by Jupiter of the attributes of the Zodiacal ram. (Illustration facing page 13, not here reproduceable) The mythological figure of Pan, the deity with the head of a ram, is familiar to any student of ancient lore. The fact that Pan was an aspect of Jupiter to the Egyptians and others, and was a deity representative of the procreative energy is also well known. Jupiter is often shown with the horns of a ram.

2. Writing on Isis, he tells us (p. 47) that the statue of this goddess of Egypt stood upon a stone pedestal ornamented with rams' heads, indicating that the most auspicious time for the generation of life is during the period when the sun passes through the sign of Aries, the ram.

3. He provides a remarkable explanation for the placement of the "J"... the representation not of the Hebrew "yod" but "J" for the Roman God Jupiter, the ram... the sex-symbol... in the position of the head of the Tetragrammaton. He tells us, (Page 54) "The vernal equinox is therefore said to occur in the constellation of Aries (the Ram). It is fitting that of all beasts *a Ram should be placed at the head* of the heavenly flock forming the zodiacal band. Centuries before the Christian Era, the pagans revered this constellation." He then quotes Godfrey Higgins, who states, "This constellation was called the 'Lamb of God.' He was also called the 'Savior,' and was said to save mankind from their sins. He was always honored with the appellation of 'Dominus' or 'Lord'. He was called 'the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.' The devotees addressing him in their litany, constantly repeated the words, 'O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Grant us Thy peace.'"

Further examination of the letters of the name "Jehovah" begins to reveal more details about the nature of the Godhead of which the "Jehovah's Witnesses" are so proud. Remembering that the original language of the Hebrew is composed only of consonants and that vowel sounds are interchangeable, the casual observer has no difficulty in picking a few important key words out of the name "Jehovah".

The name suddenly presents itself not as a single name, but a composite of several names: JOVE, the genitive form of JUPITER combines with OVAH, the latin word for sheep, and the result is something that could easily be interpreted as meaning "Jupiter, the sheep-god". Jupiter, in itself, produces "piter" spelled differently but, verbally, close to "pater" or "father". "Piter" is the word used for "father" in some Eastern lands. "Shua" or "Shiva" is the progenitor-god of the Hindus, whose phallus is the holiest of religious objects today in India. The far eastern influence on early christianity is well known.



Here we must return briefly to the aforementioned book, "Things in Which it is Impossible for God to Lie", published by the Watchtower Society, the organization of "Jehovah's Witnesses".

The first occurrence in today's Bible of the name YHWH, or "Jehovah" occurs in the second chapter of Genesis, where the first of the "Jehovah Elohim" documents begin with the story of the "Lord God" and his dealings with Adam, Eve and a snake. Relying on these "pious forgeries" to establish the identity of the god they call "Jehovah", they tell us: (p. 43)

"In the second chapter of its first book God's name is revealed to us; and for 6,961 times that name is written in the thirty-nine books of the Hebrew Scriptures, it being spelled with the four Hebrew letters (Yod, He, Waw, He, to correspond with our YHWH). *Since the twelfth century of our Common Era Europeans have pronounced the name as "Jehovah."* But today there are many scholars who think its correct pronunciation is "Yahweh."

It is clear from this reference that the Jehovah's Witnesses also subscribe to belief in Jupiter the Ram. Obviously they are not ignorant

of the twelfth century origin of the name "Jehovah". Why then, do they also mispronounce the name? This certainly is deliberate, because they are not without knowledge. The closest of the Hebrew names to the name of the One True God, without question, is "Elohim", although it still is corrupt because of the addition of the plural form. However, it has no association with Jove or Jupiter, nor with Adonis, the "Lord" of the Pagans. Surely it is the safer form to be used by people who profess to believe in the One God. If the plural is removed for the sake of clarifying the absolute unity of God, then much harmony will result between the followers of several religions. We will at last have agreed on one point. For the Quran says of the people of the Book, we should tell them that their God and ours are One.

The idea of sharing common belief with the Muslims, however, is out of the question to the Dajjal (deceitful people). They not only would not concede the common origin of the name of God in all true religion, preferring to declare themselves the witnesses of Jupiter. They would, and do, in fact decline to admit that the name of Allah, the one True God, even exists.

Jehovah's witnesses are found in every part of the world, and lately have devoted much effort to undermining the Muslims in the eyes of their own members through deceitful literature. They cannot plead the excuse that they know nothing about the facts of Islam, or they do not know that Muslims call their God "Allah". In every Muslim land they hear the Muslims crying "Allaho Akbar" (Allah is Most High) from the minarets five times daily. Muslims have been forewarned that Dajjal would be blind in his right (spiritual) eye. However, we did not expect that he also would be deaf. But this seems to be the case. For this book, discussing matters in which it is "impossible for God to lie", tells us boldly and without shame, (Page 10). "However, the Mohammedans give no personal name to their God"!

Having dealt with the Muslims for so many years, and claiming to know so much about their faith and beliefs, these people should at least know that Muslims are not "Mohammedans". They are called "Muslims" and their religion is named "Islam". Even the worst enemies and critics in this enlightened age have realized that common courtesy demands proper and respectful reference to the names of people, nations and religious groups.

The question of whether or not "Jehovah", the sheep-headed Jupiter of the twelfth century in whom these people believe can "lie" will not be discussed here. However, it has become plain enough that Dajjal, the deceivers who are his worshippers today, do not know the meaning of truth and honesty.

to be continued

WOULD YOU ACCEPT

- A religion that teaches belief in only One True God, the God of science and nature; a Gracious and Merciful God who has the power to forgive or to punish as He sees fit, without need of blood atonement?
- A religion that offers total forgiveness of sinners for the asking; that promises an everlasting paradise...not a place of harps and halos but a state of ecstasy in the full realization of the presence and love of God?
- A religion that holds in reverence all the divine messengers of God who taught us the simple lessons of brotherly love; who guided us along the path of spiritual evolution toward the full realization of God?
- A religion which forbids the worship of these prophets, or their mothers, or their righteous servants, as gods, while it fosters love and respect for these beloved ones of God?
- A religion which not only claims that God has spoken in the past, but which demonstrates that God speaks today...and teaches you how you yourself may actually hear His voice?
- A religion which is not only a salvation for sinners but a guidance for the righteous who seek the way to God, and a blessing for all men?
- A religion which does not contradict science but helps to explain it; which not only permits but encourages reason, and all the precepts of which may be examined and verified by scientific research and discovery?
- A religion which provides answers to the secrets of man and the universe instead of posing new and unanswerable questions, and which clearly separates good and evil so you *know where you stand*?
- A religion which quickly and easily solves the dilemmas of economic disparity and hunger, racial strife and war?
- But best of all, a religion which has given us, in our own day and age, a true messenger of God, the like of Jesus, to renew God's eternal blessing to mankind?

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